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16 November 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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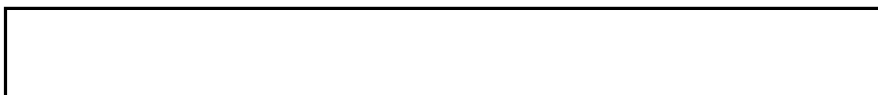
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation In South Vietnam: Heavy fighting at close quarters between US troops and Communist main force units continued today for the third successive day in western Pleiku Province.

In addition to artillery and tactical air support provided US troops yesterday, 18 B-52 Stratofortresses bombed a Communist troop concentration in close proximity to the battle line. Although smoke and dust precluded bomb damage assessment, enemy antiaircraft fire previously observed coming from the target area was reportedly silenced after the air strike.

Confirmed Communist losses during the three-day battle total 465 killed, 16 captured, and 26 weapons seized. US casualties have been placed at 77 killed and 127 wounded; three US aircraft have also been lost.

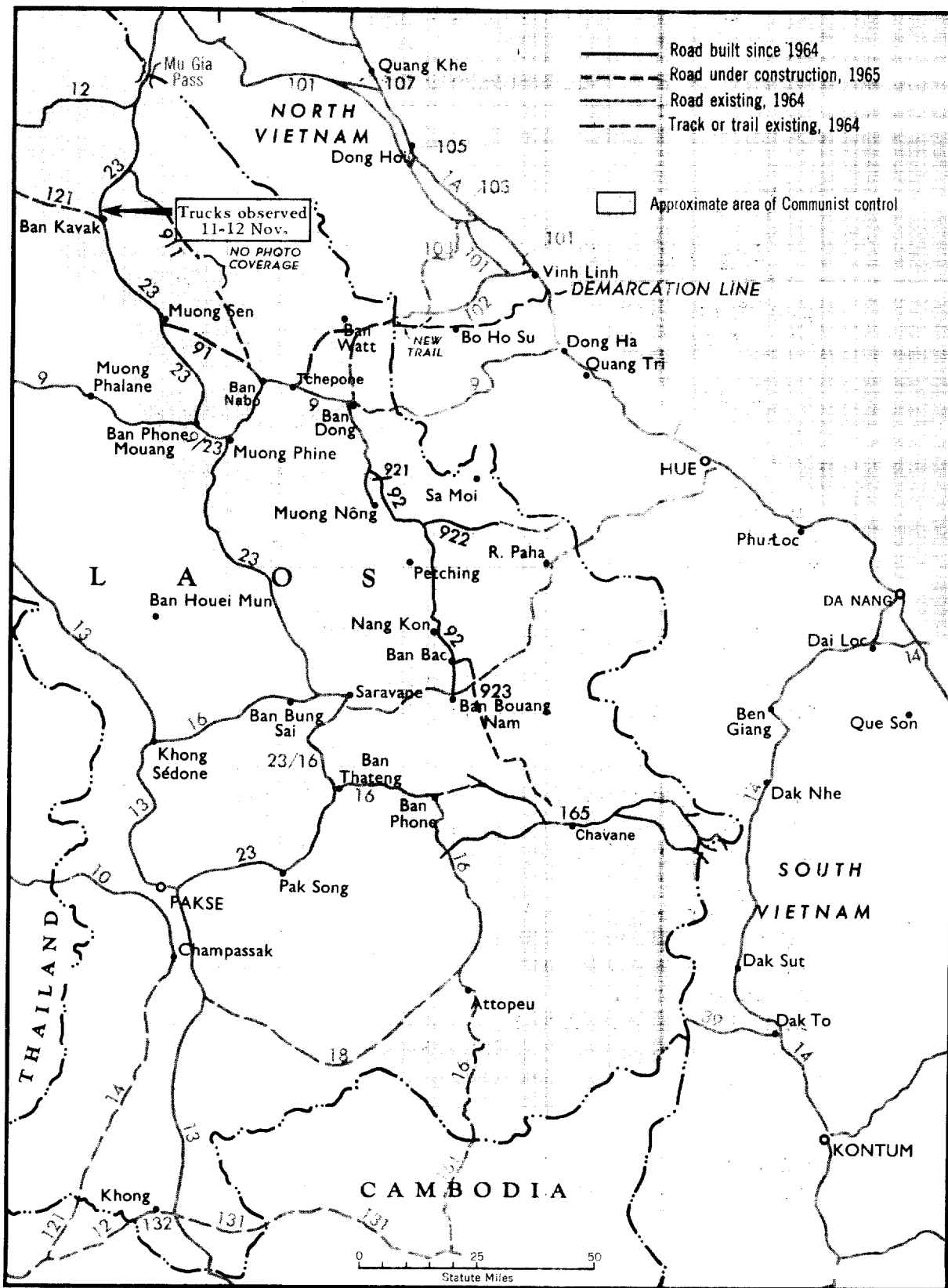
Elsewhere, several major US and Vietnamese clearing operations in Binh Long, Binh Duong, and Bien Hoa provinces are continuing with no significant enemy contact reported during the past 24 hours.

Military Developments in North Vietnam:

two US RF-101 Voodoo aircraft on a photo mission over North Vietnam were intercepted on 15 November by MIG jet fighters northeast of Dien Bien Phu in northwestern North Vietnam near the Laos border. The RF-101s successfully evaded attack and returned safely to their base.

North Vietnamese jet fighters have made several attempts in recent weeks to attack US support aircraft such as reconnaissance, ELINT and rescue aircraft

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while staying clear of armed fighters. The presence of MIG fighters in the Dien Bien Phu area would mark a significant departure from the past North Vietnamese practice of remaining in the general Hanoi area.

Truck Activity In Laos Panhandle: The first significant southbound movement of trucks through the Laos panhandle since the start of the rainy season at the end of May has been observed on Route 23. A total of 59 trucks moved south on 11 and 12 November, past a roadwatch team located on the northern section of the route. Forty-two of the trucks reportedly contained Communist troops of unidentified nationality. In addition, 120 troops were seen walking south during the same period.

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Sudan: Anti-Communist agitation in Khartoum has led to the proscription of the Communist Party by the Sudanese Constituent Assembly.

Islamic groups, led by the fanatic Muslim Brotherhood, were aroused last week when a Communist student was said to have declared that the wife of the prophet Muhammad had been a prostitute. Anti-Communist leaders apparently spread the story and incited the Islamic mobs to attack Communist centers throughout the Khartoum area. Up to 20,000 demonstrators participated in the rioting, and the Communists were forced to request police protection.

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[REDACTED] A motion for proscription was presented by the Umma Party to the Constituent Assembly and passed on 15 November.

Although the Communists will probably be forced underground, their extensive influence in various labor, student, and other groups will make them a continuing threat to the regime.

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NOTES

Rhodesia: [Police in Salisbury and Bulawayo dispersed an attempted general strike yesterday without incident, and the situation in the rest of the country apparently is under control. Governor Gibbs has rejected Prime Minister Smith's demand that he resign, but his appeal to Rhodesians to refuse assistance to the rebel government does not appear to have aroused significant white opposition to Smith. Efforts in the UN Security Council to moderate African demands for widespread sanctions, including the use of force if necessary, are still deadlocked. In London, Conservative leader Heath has rallied Tory members of Parliament in support of Prime Minister Wilson's enabling legislation.]

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Guinea: [President Touré will probably shake up his regime in the next few weeks because of coup plotting by high-ranking party and government officials. A number of persons has already been arrested, but the top leaders are still free while evidence against them is being gathered. Touré appears confident that he can control the plotting which he maintains involves three groups within Guinea, coordinated through Senegal and Ivory Coast, and ultimately directed from Paris.]

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Congo (Leopoldville): President Kasavubu has again challenged former premier Tshombé by reappointing Evariste Kimba to form a new government. Tshombé had marshaled his parliamentary forces to vote Kimba out of office last Sunday. Kasavubu may stall on presenting the new cabinet until Parliament recesses in early December, but since Kimba lost by only a narrow margin, the President may feel he can get the votes now, either by forming a wider-based Kimba government or by weaning away enough Tshombé supporters. Harassment of pro-Tshombé backers, meetings, and activities will almost certainly increase and may include arrests, beatings, and personal threats.

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Communist China - India: The sizable clash which occurred in a remote section of the Sikkim-Tibet frontier on 13 November appears to be another of the firefights that flare sporadically as a result of active forward patrolling by both sides. There have been no indications of major troop deployments, and both Peking and New Delhi have promptly issued conventionally worded notes of protest. Each side claims the other provoked the incident, which reportedly involved more than 100 troops and resulted in several casualties.

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*Greece: The Stephanopoulos government has passed its first major hurdle by electing its candidate--Dimitrios Papaspyrou--president of the parliament. Although obtaining only a slim 149 to 143 majority, the government has probably avoided a vote of confidence for the time being. Nevertheless, the opposition led by former Prime Minister Papandreou will continue to threaten the Stephanopoloy's regime.

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